I. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces without prejudice all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A camera-based system for capturing images of a writing surface comprising:

a generally horizontally extending boom assembly having a length of from about 30 to 50 inches, said boom assembly being positioned generally above the midpoint of said writing surface;

at least one digital camera mounted on said boom assembly at a location spaced from the plane of said writing surface, said at least one digital camera being oriented so that the field of view thereof encompasses said writing surface; and

a controller in communication with said at least one digital camera, said controller receiving image data from said at least one digital camera and processing said image data to form an output digital image of said writing surface ~~including~~ , said output digital image comprising all ~~visible~~ writing, ~~thereon~~ irrespective of color, that is entered on said writing surface that is visible to a human observer looking at said writing surface.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1 wherein said boom assembly includes a wall mount, a boom extending outwardly from said wall mount and a camera head on a distal end of said boom, said camera head supporting said at least one digital camera.

5. (Original) A system according to claim 4 wherein said wall mount is releasably coupled to a wall plate secured to a wall surface.

6. (Original) A system according to claim 4 wherein said boom assembly is articulated and is moveable between an extended operating position and a folded retracted condition.

7. (Original) A system according to claim 6 wherein said boom assembly includes a pair of hinges at spaced locations along said boom to enable said boom to fold over itself.

8. (Original) A system according to claim 7 wherein each of said hinges includes a locking mechanism to retain said boom assembly in said extended operating position.

9. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 4 wherein said camera head supports a plurality of digital cameras, each of said digital cameras having

a field of view that encompasses a distinct section of said writing surface, fields of view of adjacent digital cameras overlapping slightly.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 9 wherein said camera head supports a pair of digital cameras.

11. (Original) A system according to claim 9 wherein said camera head supports three digital cameras.

12. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 4 wherein said camera head supports a single digital camera.

13. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 12 wherein said digital camera is pivotally mounted on said camera head and is moveable about an arc to capture images of distinct sections of said writing surface, images of adjacent distinct sections of said writing surface overlapping.

14. (Original) A system according to claim 1 wherein said controller is coupled to a computer network and uses resources of said computer network.

15. (Original) A system according to claim 14 wherein said controller uses storage, printing, distribution and/or remote viewing resources of said computer network.

16. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1 wherein said controller has Internet server capabilities and is coupled to a distributed computer

network to allow said digital image to be accessed by a user through an Internet browser.

17. (Original) A system according to claim 16 wherein said controller is a dedicated appliance.

18. (Original) A system according to claim 16 wherein said controller is a personal computer.

19. (Original) A system according to claim 16 wherein said controller sends said digital image to a designated secondary storage location in said distributed computer network.

20. (Original) A system according to claim 16 wherein said controller includes a display to present the digital image.

21. (Original) A system according to claim 16 wherein said controller processes image data received from said at least one digital camera to yield high contrast pen strokes on a white or empty background.

22. (Original) A system according to claim 21 wherein said pen strokes are in colour.

23. (Currently Amended) A camera-based system for capturing images of a writing surface on which pen strokes of one or more color are made comprising:

a boom assembly adapted to extend outwardly from a generally vertical surface;

at least one digital camera mounted on said boom assembly at a location spaced from said vertical surface, said at least one digital camera being oriented so that the field of view thereof encompasses said writing surface; and

a controller in communication with said at least one digital camera, said controller conditioning said at least one digital camera to acquire an image of said writing surface, said image acquired by said at least one digital camera being conveyed to said controller and processed to form a digital image of said writing surface ~~including~~ , said digital image comprising all ~~visible~~ high contrast pen strokes, irrespective of color, that are entered on said writing surface that are visible to a human observer looking at said writing surface on a white or empty background, said digital image being accessible to a user through a web client application.

24. (Original) A system according to claim 23 wherein said controller automatically publishes said digital image.

25. (Original) A system according to claim 24 wherein said controller also sends said digital image to a designated secondary storage location.

26. (Original) A system according to claim 24 wherein said controller processes image data received from said at least one digital camera to reduce the size of said digital image.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 23 wherein said controller saves said digital image in a selected format.

29. (Original) A system according to claim 28 wherein said selected format is a .JPEG format.

30. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 23 wherein said controller includes a display to present the digital image.

31. (Original) A system according to claim 23 wherein said boom assembly includes a wall mount, a boom extending outwardly from said wall mount and a camera head on a distal end of said boom, said camera head supporting said at least one digital camera.

32. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 31 wherein said wall mount is releasably coupled to a wall plate secured to said vertical surface.

33. (Original) A system according to claim 31 wherein said boom assembly is articulated and moveable between an extended operating position and a folded retracted condition.

34. (Original) A system according to claim 33 wherein said boom assembly includes a pair of hinges at spaced locations along said boom to enable said boom to fold over itself.

35. (Original) A system according to claim 34 wherein each of said hinges includes a locking mechanism to retain said boom assembly in said extended operating position.

36. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 31 wherein said camera head supports a plurality of digital cameras, each of said digital cameras having a field of view that encompasses a distinct section of said writing surface, fields of view of adjacent digital cameras overlapping slightly.

37. (Original) A system according to claim 36 wherein said camera head supports a pair of digital cameras.

38. (Original) A system according to claim 36 wherein said camera head supports three digital cameras.

39. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 31 wherein said camera head supports a single digital camera.

40. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 39 wherein said digital camera is pivotally mounted on said camera head and is moveable about an arc to capture images of distinct sections of said writing surface, images of adjacent distinct sections of said writing surface overlapping.

41. (Original) A system according to claim 31 wherein said boom assembly has a length of from about 30 to 50 inches.

42. (Currently Amended) A camera-based system for capturing images of a writing surface comprising:

a board mounted on a wall and having a writing surface on which information is to be recorded using one or more different colored pen tools;

a boom assembly positioned above said board and extending outwardly from said wall in a generally horizontal disposition;

at least one digital camera mounted on said boom assembly at a location spaced from said wall, said at least one digital camera being oriented so that the field of view thereof encompasses said writing surface; and

a controller in communication with said at least one digital camera and having Internet server capabilities, said controller being responsive to user input and conditioning said at least one digital camera to acquire an image of said writing surface, said image acquired by said at least one digital camera being conveyed to said controller and processed to form an electronic image of said writing surface ~~including~~ , said electronic image comprising all ~~visible~~ pen strokes, irrespective of the pen tool used to make said pen strokes, that are entered on said writing surface that are visible to a human observer looking at said writing surface, said electronic image being published automatically to allow said electronic image to be accessed by a user through a web client application.

43. Cancelled

44. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 42 wherein said controller also sends said electronic image to a designated secondary storage location.

45. (Original) A system according to claim 44 wherein said controller processes image data received from said at least one digital camera to reduce the size of said digital image.

46. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 45 wherein said image data is processed to yield high contrast pen tool strokes on a white or empty background.

47. (Original) A system according to claim 46 wherein said controller saves said electronic image in a selected format.

48. (Original) A system according to claim 47 wherein said controller includes a display to present the electronic image.

49. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 42 wherein said boom assembly includes a wall mount, a boom extending outwardly from said wall mount and a camera head on a distal end of said boom, said camera head supporting said at least one digital camera.

50. (Original) A system according to claim 49 wherein said boom assembly has a length of from about 30 to 50 inches.

51. (Currently Amended) An image publication and distribution method comprising the steps of:

acquiring an image of a writing surface that includes all visible information recorded on said writing surface made via one or more different colored pen tools, using an optical recording device, said optical recording device being mounted on a generally horizontal boom positioned above said writing surface;

processing said image to yield a digital output image comprising all high contrast pen strokes of said visible information that are visible to a human observer looking at said writing surface on a white or empty background irrespective of the pen tool used to make said pen strokes; and

posting said output image to a site in response to user input to allow said output image to be accessed by a user through a client browser application.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 further comprising the step of forwarding said digital output image to a secondary location for storage.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 further comprising the step of presenting said digital output image on a display device while said digital output image is being posted.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein said high contrast pen strokes are in color.

56. (Currently Amended) A system for capturing images of a writing surface on which information is input using one or more pen tools, said system comprising:

a boom extending outwardly from a wall surface and being positioned above said writing surface, said boom being fixed and stationary in relation to said writing surface;

an optical recording device mounted on said boom at a location laterally spaced from said writing surface, said optical recording device being aimed towards said writing surface; and

a controller in communication with said optical recording device, said controller conditioning said optical recording device to acquire at least one image of said writing surface in response to operator input and processing the acquired at least one image to yield a digital output image, said digital output image comprising all ~~visible~~ pen strokes entered on said writing surface that are visible to a human observer looking at said writing surface irrespective of the pen tool used to make said pen strokes.

57. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 56 wherein said boom is positioned adjacent the midpoint of said writing surface.

58. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 57 wherein said boom includes a wall mount, a boom arm extending outwardly from said wall mount, and a camera head adjacent a distal end of said boom arm, said camera head accommodating said optical recording device.

59. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 58 wherein said wall mount is releasably coupled to a wall plate secured to said wall surface.

60. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 56 wherein said controller is coupled to a computer network and uses resources of said computer network.

61. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 56 wherein said controller has web server capabilities and is coupled to a distributed computer network to allow digital output images to be accessed by a user via a web browser.

62. (Currently Amended) A system for capturing an image comprising:

an arm configured to extend outwardly from a generally vertical surface;

an imaging device mounted adjacent a distal end of said arm at a location laterally spaced from said vertical surface, said imaging device being operable to capture an image of a write board mounted on said vertical surface below said arm, said write board comprising a writing surface; and

a controller in communication with said imaging device, said controller conditioning said imaging device to acquire an image of said write board in response to operator input and processing the acquired at least one image to yield a digital output image, said digital output image comprising all ~~visible~~ pen strokes entered on said writing surface that are visible to a human observer looking at said write board irrespective of the pen tool used to make said pen strokes, said controller further posting said digital output image to a site accessible to a user through a web client application in response to operator input.

63. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 62 wherein said controller includes a web server having a dedicated web address.

64. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 62 wherein said arm is coupled to a mount that is configured to be secured to said vertical surface.

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 62 wherein said imaging device comprises at least one digital camera.

67. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 62 wherein said controller includes a first button actuable by an operator to cause said controller to condition said imaging device to acquire an image, and a second button actuable by an operator to cause said controller to post said digital output image to said site.

68. (Previously Presented) A system for capturing images of a writing surface comprising:

a boom extending outwardly from a wall surface and being positioned above said writing surface to be imaged;

a digital camera device mounted on said boom at a location laterally spaced from said wall surface, said digital camera device being actuable to capture an image of said writing surface; and

a controller mounted on said wall surface and being in communication with said digital camera device, said controller conditioning said digital camera device to capture at least one image of said writing surface in response to operator input, and processing the acquired at least one image to yield a digital output image, said digital output image comprising all ~~visible~~ pen strokes entered on said writing surface that are visible to a human observer looking at said writing surface irrespective of the pen tool used to make said pen strokes.

69. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 68 wherein said controller further posts said digital output image to a site accessible to a user through a web client application in response to operator input.

70. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 69 wherein said controller includes a web server having a dedicated web address.

71. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 70 wherein said boom is coupled to a mount that is secured to said wall surface.

72. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 70 wherein said controller includes a first button actuable by an operator to cause said controller to condition said digital camera device to capture said at least one image, and a second button actuable by an operator to cause said controller to post said digital output image to said site.

73. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 70 wherein said controller is mounted to one side of said writing surface.

74. (Currently Amended) An imaging system to capture an image of a write board mounted on a wall surface, said imaging system comprising:

a boom configured to extend outwardly from said wall surface above said write board;

an imaging device mounted on said boom at a location laterally spaced from said wall surface, said imaging device being actuable to capture an image of said write board; and

a controller configured to be mounted on said wall surface and being in communication with said imaging device, said controller conditioning said imaging device to capture an image of said write board in response to operator input,

and processing the acquired at least one image to yield a digital output image, said digital output image comprising all ~~visible~~ pen strokes recorded on said write board that are visible to a human observer looking at said write board irrespective of the color of said pen strokes.

75. (Previously Presented) An imaging system according to claim 74 wherein said controller further posts said digital output image to a site accessible to a user through a web client application in response to operator input.

76. (Previously Presented) An imaging system according to claim 75 wherein said controller includes a web server having a dedicated web address.

77. (Previously Presented) An imaging system according to claim 75 wherein said boom is coupled to a mount that is configured to be secured to said wall surface.

78. (Previously Presented) An imaging system according to claim 75 wherein said controller includes a first button actuable by an operator to cause said controller to condition said imaging device to capture an image and a second button actuable by an operator to cause said controller to post said digital output image to said site.

79. (Previously Presented) A camera-based system for capturing images of a writing surface comprising:

a generally horizontally extending boom assembly, said boom assembly being positioned above said writing surface;

at least one digital camera mounted on said boom assembly at a location spaced from the plane of said writing surface, said at least one digital camera being oriented so that the field of view thereof encompasses said writing surface; and

a controller having Internet server capabilities and being in communication with said at least one digital camera, said controller receiving image data from said at least one digital camera and processing said image data to form a digital output image of said writing surface including all ~~visible~~ high contrast pen strokes recorded on said writing surface irrespective of color that are visible to a human observer looking at said writing surface on a white or empty background, said controller being coupled to a distributed computer network to allow said digital output image to be accessed by a user through an Internet browser.

80. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 79 wherein said controller is a dedicated appliance.

81. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 79 wherein said controller is a personal computer.

82. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 79 wherein said controller sends said digital output image to a designated secondary storage location in said distributed computer network.

83. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 79 wherein said controller includes a display to present the digital output image.

84. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 79 wherein said pen strokes are in color.

85. (Currently Amended) A camera-based system for capturing images of a writing surface comprising:

a boom assembly adapted to extend outwardly from a generally vertical surface, said boom assembly including a wall mount, a boom extending outwardly from said wall mount and a camera head on a distal end of said boom, said camera head supporting at least one digital camera.

at least one digital camera supported by said camera head at a location spaced from said vertical surface, said at least one digital camera being oriented so that the field of view thereof encompasses said writing surface; and

a controller in communication with said at least one digital camera, said controller conditioning said at least one digital camera to acquire an image of said writing surface, said image acquired by said at least one digital camera being conveyed to said controller and processed to form a digital output image of said target area, said digital output image comprising all ~~visible~~ pen strokes recorded on said writing surface that are visible to a human observer looking at said writing surface irrespective of the

pen tool used to make said pen strokes, said digital output image being accessible to a user through a web client application.

86. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 85 wherein said wall mount is releasably coupled to a wall plate secured to said vertical surface.

87. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 85 wherein said boom assembly is articulated and moveable between an extended operating position and a folded retracted condition.

88. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 87 wherein said boom assembly includes a pair of hinges at spaced locations along said boom to enable said boom to fold over itself.

89. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 88 wherein each of said hinges includes a locking mechanism to retain said boom assembly in said extended operating position.

90. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 85 wherein said camera head supports a plurality of digital cameras, each of said digital cameras having a field of view that encompasses a distinct section of said writing surface, fields of view of adjacent digital cameras overlapping slightly.

91. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 90 wherein said camera head supports a pair of digital cameras.

92. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 90 wherein said camera head supports three digital cameras.

93. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 85 wherein said camera head supports a single digital camera.

94. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 93 wherein said digital camera is pivotally mounted on said camera head and is moveable about an arc to capture images of distinct sections of said writing surface, images of adjacent distinct sections of said writing surface overlapping.

95. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 85 wherein said boom assembly has a length of from about 30 to 50 inches.